

THE LEVENSHULME
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report
FOR 1903.

Manchester :

JAMES COLLINS & KINGSTON LIMITED, 4, SOUTHGATE.

—
1904.

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Levenshulme Urban District Council.

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Nineteenth Annual Report on the health and the sanitary condition of your District during the past year, 1903.

The Report is of a satisfactory character in all points, as I am able to record a low death rate, a low infant mortality, a slight prevalence of infectious disease, and a continued increase in the measures taken to improve the sanitary condition of the District.

The steady and rapid increase of the population is still maintained in all the Wards, varying in degree. At the end of the year 3601 houses were occupied, an increase of 315 over the previous year.

The population at the middle of the year was estimated at 13,500, an increase of 1000 over last year, and this figure forms the basis of all the calculations. The Census in April 1901 gave the population 11,485, the number of inhabited houses 2675, and the average number of persons per house 4.29. At the end of the year the numbers of inhabited houses in each Ward were: North-West, 552; South-West, 702; North-East, 1520; South-East, 827.

The area of the District is 605 acres, and the number of persons per acre 22.1.

During the year 143 deaths occurred in the District, which is equivalent to a death-rate of 10.59 per thousand of the population. On two occasions only has the rate for the year been lower, both in the last three years and to a slight degree. The rate last year was 10.24, and the average for the past ten years 12.31. Of these deaths 62 were males, 81 females. It is necessary to add to these the deaths of 14 residents which occurred outside the District, chiefly in Manchester Hospitals: with this correction the total number of deaths belonging to the District is 157—71 males, 86 females—and the corrected death-rate 11.63 per thousand. This compares very well with the general rates for the country for the past year. For the whole of England and Wales the rate was 15.4, the average for 76 great towns 16.3, for 103 smaller towns 14.6, and for the rural districts 14.8.

The number of births registered during the year was 405—males 193, females 212,—which is equivalent to a birth-rate of 30·00 per thousand of the population. This is slightly below that of last year—30·56,—but it is well above the average for the past ten years—26·14. During the past three years this increase in the birth-rate has been well maintained, and is probably due to the influx of young adults, which to some extent also accounts for our favourable death-rates. The birth-rate for England and Wales for the year was 28·4, for the large towns 29·7, for the smaller towns 27·4, for the rural districts 27·3.

The excess of births registered over deaths, or the natural increase, was 262. Of the births three were illegitimate, of the deaths none.

In the table following is shewn the statistics of births and deaths for 1902 and the nine years preceding:—

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS Registered in the District.				Deaths of non-residents	Deaths of residents belonging to the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under one year of age.		At all ages.				No.	Rate.
				No.	Rate per 1000 births	No.	Rate.				
1893	6,500	173	26·61	39	473	105	16·15	...	...	...	...
1894	7,000	196	28·00	17	86	80	11·43	...	...	...	...
1895	7,800	175	24·43	23	131	104	13·33	...	...	...	...
1896	8,500	214	28·70	20	86	96	11·29	...	...	...	...
1897	9,200	223	24·24	12	188	123	13·37	...	...	...	...
1898	9,700	236	24·33	20	81	108	11·12	...	5	113	11·31
1899	10,300	270	26·24	50	118	136	13·20	...	8	111	13·98
1900	10,900	307	28·16	15	146	114	10·15	...	5	119	10·91
1901	11,700	374	31·96	18	128	117	12·56	...	5	152	13·00
1902	12,500	382	30·56	35	91	128	10·24	..	12	110	11·25
Avg. for Years 1893-1902	9,400	246	26·14	34	126	111	12·11	...	7	116	12·32
1903	13,500	405	30·00	40	98	143	10·59	...	14	157	11·63

This table shows the rapid increase of the population of the District, the comparatively low death-rate for this period, and the variations in the birth-rates.

The figures for the different wards for the past year are shown in the next table.

TABLE II.

	North-West.	South-West.	North-East.	South-East.
Population, Estimated	2,200	2,680	5,300	3,320
Total Number of Deaths ...	37	26	50	44
Death-rate	16.81	9.70	9.43	13.22
Total Number of Births ...	46	64	186	109
Birth-rate... ..	20.90	23.88	35.09	33.91
Deaths under 1 year	6	4	18	12
Infantile Mortality	130	62	96	110

North-West Ward has the highest death-rate and the lowest birth-rate; North-East Ward the lowest death-rate and the highest birth-rate. Last year the death-rate was highest in South-West, lowest in North-West Ward.

In the next table the deaths are arranged in groups, according to the ages at which they occurred, together with the figures for the five previous years.

TABLE III.

Table of the Ages at which the Deaths occurred, from 1898 to 1903.

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Under 1 year	20	50	15	49	35	40
Between 1 and 5 years	11	21	8	15	17	11
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	10	3	2	5	7	5
,, 15 ,, 25 ,,	7	2	5	4	1	8
,, 25 ,, 65 ,,	42	44	39	45	49	50
Over 65 years	18	16	19	34	28	14
Totals	108	136	114	152	140	157

Of those over 65 years, 8 were between 65 and 70 years, 20 between 70 and 80, 7 between 80 and 90, and 1 was over 90 years.

They constituted 23 per cent of the total deaths, which is a higher proportion than has formerly been noted.

The number of deaths under one year was 40, and on comparing this with the 405 births we obtain a rate of mortality during the first year of life of 98 per thousand. This is slightly above that of last year—91,—but is well below the average for the past ten years of 126 per thousand. The rate for England and Wales is 132, for the large towns 144, for the smaller towns 135, and for the rural districts 118.

This rate in our district is very variable, as is shown in Table I., and apparently depends more on the prevalence of Diarrhœa and Measles in certain years than on the general condition of the infantile population; but taking the average for the past ten years—126—as a more reliable criterion, we may consider it a satisfactory indication.

Of the total number of deaths they formed 25 per cent, the same as last year.

The causes of these 40 deaths are classified and analysed in the next table, and compared with the corresponding figures for the five previous years.

TABLE IV.

Cause of Death under One Year of Age, from 1898 to 1903.

CLASS.	NAME.	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Pulmonary Diseases	Bronchitis and Pneumonia...	3	8	4	4	4	9
Infectious Diseases	{Scarlet Fever.....	...	...	1	...	...	...
	{Measles .....	...	4	...	...	1	1
	{Whooping Cough.....	...	...	...	1	2	3
	{Diarrhœa	3	10	3	9	2	1
Diet Diseases	{Tuberculosis	3	9	7	4	3	1
	{Gastro-enteric Catarrh .....	...	...	8	3	3	6
	{Convulsions	1	4	4	6	6	5
	{Marasmus	2	5	3	4	3	1
Congenital Diseases	{Premature Birth	5	4	11	9	6	1
	{Congenital Defects ...	...	...	...	3	3	4
	{Debility .....	...	...	...	3	3	4
	{Other causes	3	6	4	3	1	1
Totals.....		20	50	45	49	35	40

The number of deaths from pulmonary diseases, 9, is larger than usual; from infectious diseases the total is 6, which is much below the average, only one death having occurred from each of the two diseases, Diarrhoea and Tuberculosis; from diseases caused by errors in diet and malnutrition there were 12. I may here note the great prevalence of under-feeding infants by the practice of adding a large proportion of water or barley-water to the milk given even in the case of children several months old. This, and the practice of giving artificial foods with little or no milk is frequently the cause of debility in children, progressing occasionally to a fatal termination. Over feeding and careless feeding with unsuitable food seems less prevalent. From congenital diseases there were 9, only 1 being due to premature birth.

Of children under five years of age, inclusive of those mentioned in the last table, the deaths numbered 51, which is equal to a rate of 3.7 per thousand of the population, and to 32 per cent of the total deaths. Last year the rate per thousand was 4.1. The following table shows the causes of death of these 51 children for the past six years.

TABLE V.

Causes of Death in Children under 5 years of age, from 1898 to 1903.

NAME.	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Bronchitis and Pneumonia.....	7	11	1	6	7	11
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	1	...	1	1
Measles .....	...	11	1	3	2	1
Whooping Cough.....	...	...	2	1	6	4
Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	3	10	3	9	2	1
Tuberculosis	3	11	9	7	5	5
Gastro-enteric Catarrh .....	...	...	8	3	5	6
All other causes	17	25	21	35	21	22
Totals.....	31	71	53	61	52	51

Of the 11 deaths between 1 and 5 years, 4 were due to tuberculosis. The other causes of death call for no further remark, as they have been considered under the previous table.

For the purpose of comparison with previous years the causes of death at all ages is given in a concise form.

TABLE VI.

**Total Deaths throughout the District in Persons at all ages,
from 1897 to 1903.**

DISEASES.	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles.....	2	...	12	...	3	2	2
Scarlet Fever .....	...	...	1	2	2	3	1
Diphtheria .....	...	1	...	1	...	2	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	2	1	6	4
Typhus Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever and Continued Fever.....	...	1	...	1	2	...	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	14	5	10	4	9	2	2
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
Phthisis and Tuberculosis ...	18	17	15	20	15	17	14
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc....	22	19	34	14	24	16	33
Heart Disease	12	14	9	6	10	10	13
Injuries.....	4	4	2	3	3	3	6
Other Diseases not classified...	46	50	58	64	83	78	79
Totals.....	123	113	144	118	152	110	157

Of these deaths 2 were uncertified by medical men; in 10 cases inquests were held, and of these 5 were due to accidents and 1 to suicide.

Compared with the previous years shown the number of deaths from phthisis and tuberculosis is lower, from bronchitis and pneumonia and from heart disease higher. For the last 4 years no deaths have occurred directly from rheumatic fever.

TABLE VII.
Causes of and Ages at Death during 1903.

Deaths in or belonging to Whole District, at Subjoined Ages.								Deaths in or belonging to localities (Wards) at all Ages.			
Causes of Death.	VII Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	NW	SW	NE	SE
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough.....	1	3	1	...	..	..	...	...	1	1	2
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
{ Other Continued .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	2
Enteritis.....	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	..
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1
Other Septic Diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	6	...	...	...	1	5	...	1	1	4	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	8	1	1	1	...	2	...	2	2	1	3
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	...	...	...	...	5	3	2	1	...	2
Bronchitis	22	8	...	...	...	5	9	1	4	5	9
Pneumonia.....	11	1	2	...	...	6	2	6	2	3	...
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism.....	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver											
Venereal Diseases.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	13	...	...	1	1	6	5	1	...	6	3
Accidents	5	...	2	...	1	...	2	..	1	1	3
Snicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
All other causes	65	22	1	2	3	21	16	18	8	24	15
All causes.....	157	40	11	5	8	56	37	37	26	59	44

In the previous table the causes of death are further analysed, and the ages at death, and the wards in which they occurred are shewn in the form prescribed by the Local Government Board.

The chief causes of death were bronchitis and pneumonia, which caused a total of 33, equal to a respiratory death rate of 2·44 per thousand; phthisis and tuberculosis, with a total of 14, constituting 7 per cent of the total deaths, and giving a phthisis rate of ·44, which is well below the average for the past ten years of 1·13; and heart disease, which caused 13.

One death was ascribed to epidemic influenza, 2 to alcoholism and cirrhosis of liver.

With reference to the distribution according to ages and to the different wards, there are no points which call for special remark.

The total number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever, and epidemic diarrhoea was 10, and the zymotic death rate ·74 per thousand of the population. This rate is almost the lowest for the last ten years and is well below the average rate for that period of 1·75. The rate for England and Wales is 1·46; for the larger towns 1·89, for the smaller towns 1·41, and for the rural districts 1·08.

In the next table are shown the number of deaths and the rates for the past ten years:—

TABLE VIII.
Comparison of the Mortality from Zymotic Diseases
from 1894 to 1903.

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Total Deaths from Zymotic Diseases...	8	29	6	19	8	24	11	17	16	10
Zymotic Death Rate.....	1·1	3·7	·7	2·0	·8	2·3	1·0	1·4	1·2	·74

During the year 51 cases of the chief infectious diseases were notified, all by medical men.

Notifications were also received of 67 cases of chicken-pox, which was temporarily made notifiable.

In the following Tables are shown the number of cases notified during the last seven years :—

TABLE IX.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified from 1897 to 1903.

	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903
Small-pox... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever... ..	23	18	27	67	101	19	26
Diphtheria and Croup ...	1	5	2	7	10	11	1
Enteric and Continued Fever	1	1	6	1	5	1	8
Puerperal Fever	3	...	1	...	...	1	2
Erysipelas	3	5	13	6	10	1	7
Totals	37	32	49	81	126	36	51

The total number, 51, is above that of last year, there being an increase of scarlet fever, enteric fever, and erysipelas, and smallpox appears in the table for the first time.

Diphtheria has been less prevalent. In all 44 houses were affected.

The ages of the cases and the districts in which they occurred are shown in the next table :—

TABLE X.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District							Total Cases notified in each Ward.				Number of Cases removed to Hospital in each Ward.			
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	Over 65	N.W.	W.	N.E.	E.	N.W.	W.	N.E.	E.
Smallpox	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	1
Diphtheria	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	7	...	...	...	...	6	1	2	2	1	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	26	1	1	15	1	2	...	3	9	7	7	1	2	5	5
Enteric Fever	8	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	2	4	2	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	51	1	5	20	8	16	1	6	17	11	11	1	1	6	7

18 cases from 14 houses were removed to hospital, 3 cases of smallpox to Hyde, the other 15 cases to Baguley. The various diseases and the wards are shown in the last table.

In all the cases notified the Sanitary Inspector visited the house, made the usual inquiries as to the source of infection, the means for isolation, the schools attended, the milk supply, and the evidence of any sanitary defects. Instructions concerning the various diseases were left at the houses, notices sent to the schools attended, and where requisite to laundries, disinfectants supplied, and disinfection carried out by the Council's men.

Fumigation by formaldehyde has now been substituted for sulphur, as being more efficacious and safer.

In a few cases the bedding and clothing were destroyed, in a few stoved. This latter process cannot yet be adopted in every case, as is desirable, but in the course of the next two or three months the new Disinfecter will be available for the purpose.

During the year the Brougham Ambulance has been provided, and has been used for the removal of all cases except smallpox, and each case has been taken under the supervision and care of the Inspector. The use of the Ambulance is limited to infectious cases, and arrangements for the return of patients by cab at the Council's expense have been made.

Reports of the condition of patients in hospital have been posted up at the offices each morning, and visiting has been restricted to cases in a dangerous condition.

One death occurred in the hospital after scarlet fever.

In addition to the notifications I received information occasionally from the schools of cases of measles and whooping cough, and the prevalence of the various diseases during the year is shown in the next table.

TABLE XI.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified and communicated each month.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	2	4	...	...	2	4	1	4	...	1	2	6	26
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	8
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
Erysipelas	3	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7
Measles.....	...	...	...	...	...	few	few	...	...	...	few	...	few
Whooping Cough .....	..	few	...	...	few	few	few	few	...	...	few	...	few
Chicken-pox ...	8	18	3	...	13	6	8	4	7	...	...	...	67
Diarrhoea .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	few	few	...	...	...	few
Influenza .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	few

The District has suffered but slightly from infectious disease during the year, and no schools have been required to be closed.

Smallpox.—4 cases occurred in 4 houses; 2 were notified in March, 2 in May. The first case was concealed during the illness, and only reported, after apparent recovery, by a neighbour. Steps were at once taken to secure isolation and disinfection, and precautions taken to prevent the further spread of the disease by vaccination and isolation of all contacts. After complete recovery a prosecution was instituted for failing to notify, and for exposure while in an infected condition, and penalties of 20/- and costs in the one case and costs in the other were inflicted.

This case entailed a considerable amount of trouble and worry, and was also the occasion of much expense to the Council for disinfection of infected articles.

The other 3 cases were notified at an early stage, and immediately removed to Hyde hospital.

All the cases recovered and no fresh cases arose from these ; each case was separate and the source could not be traced. In each case I visited and saw it before removal ; vaccination of all in the houses was insisted on and carried out, the rooms thoroughly disinfected, the bedding and clothing destroyed, and the contacts were kept under observation for a fortnight ; the majority also submitted to partial isolation.

At the early part of the year handbills and notices recommending re-vaccination and describing the disease were distributed to every house in the district, and as a result re-vaccination has been extensively adopted.

The notification of chicken-pox was in force as a precaution and was continued till the end of September.

Reports were sent to the Council and to the Local Government Board of each case.

At various periods information has been received from adjacent districts of contacts ; these have been visited periodically and kept under observation ; the district has however remained free from the disease since May.

It is still necessary, however, to maintain the chief measures of precaution against an epidemic, namely, to encourage re-vaccination, and to retain a certain number of beds in hospital specially for this disease.

Scarlet fever.—During the year 26 cases in 20 houses were notified. They were distributed over the district, and at no period were they very numerous ; it was impossible to trace the source of infection in most cases. The attacks were mild and only one was fatal.

13 cases from 9 houses were removed to Baguley hospital. This proportion, 50 per cent, is the highest yet removed. There were no return cases ; at the end of the year the district was almost free.

Diphtheria.—4 cases were notified in 4 houses; in all 4 cases the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination. One case was removed to hospital; there were no deaths. Several suspicious cases occurred, and in 4 cases bacteriological examination was made but gave a negative result.

Enteric fever.—8 cases were notified in 7 houses; all of these were confirmed by bacteriological examination. One case was removed to hospital; one was fatal. In 4 other cases of illness tests were made with negative results. The number of cases this year is larger than for several years, and a brief notice is requisite of certain points in connection with it. Last year one case only occurred, in November; in March this year two cases were notified, on the 22nd and 26th. It was noticed that the milk supply was the same, and inquiry was made at the farm concerned, but no illness had occurred, and the water supply was said to be good. On April 24th a case occurred in the house adjoining the farm, and was removed to hospital. The premises were found to be insanitary and were afterwards closed. The girl did not go on the farm. The house had not the same water supply and did not take milk from this farm. Further examination was made and strict instructions to boil all water given at the farm. On May 2nd another case was notified, with the same milk supply. Steps were at once taken to stop the sale of milk from the farm. The cattle and premises were examined by Mr. Ward, veterinary surgeon, and thoroughly inspected and disinfected. Samples of the water were taken and forwarded to Professor Delepine. These were reported to be polluted, though typhoid bacilli were not found. The water supply was obtained from a reservoir; this source was cut off and Manchester water laid on to this and the adjoining farm. A thorough sanitary reconstruction of both premises was carried out, and a constant supervision maintained over a prolonged period.

The sale of milk was not allowed till after the fixing of the fresh water supply, and no cases have occurred since in connection with this farm.

There is no doubt that the cases were due to contamination of the milk by a polluted water supply, though the cause at first was not so

obvious owing to the limited number of cases and the intervals between; a very large number partook of the milk over a long period, but only a few were affected. The inquiries and inspections made involved a very great demand on my time and were a cause of anxiety for a considerable period, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Lord, spared neither time nor trouble to secure a satisfactory result to our efforts to prevent any further outbreak.

Of the 4 cases which occurred later, 2 were in one house; no cause could be traced though careful inquiry was made in each case. The district has been free since the end of October. A number of special pails for the removal of excreta in these cases has been provided.

Erysipelas.—7 cases were notified, and 1 case was fatal.

Puerperal Fever.—2 cases were notified, and 1 of these terminated fatally.

Chicken-pox.—This was made notifiable till the end of September to prevent any mild cases of smallpox being overlooked. 67 cases in 48 houses were notified, all of children; it was certainly more prevalent than for some years past. In no case was there any reason to suspect smallpox.

Measles.—The District was comparatively free from this disease, only a few cases being reported at the middle of the year. Two deaths occurred from it.

Whooping Cough.—This disease was only slightly in evidence, a few cases occurring in several months. Through its complications it caused 4 deaths.

Diarrhœa.—Comparatively few cases occurred, and only 2 deaths were due to it. The usual handbills were issued.

Epidemic Influenza.—This disease did not appear to any great extent, 1 death was recorded from it.

Impetigo Contagiosa.—This contagious skin disease has become very prevalent; it rapidly spreads amongst children and affects

the attendance at school. At one of the schools there were a large number of cases, and my attention was called to it by the head mistress. Children affected ought to be kept from school till free ; it is easily detected, and with proper treatment can be speedily checked and cured.

Phthisis.—14 cases were notified during the year, of these 2 terminated fatally; in addition 4 other deaths were registered, making a total of 6. The phthisis death rate, '44, is much below the average. In 10 cases a bacteriological examination of the sputum was made; in 6 cases the report was affirmative, in 4 negative. Forms were left at the houses, and periodical cleaning and disinfection were advised. Notices stating the danger of spitting were distributed to workshops and other places.

SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR.

A considerable amount of work has been done in this department of the administration of the District by visits of inspection and supervision, by correspondence, and by interviews with owners of property and others.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. E. Lord, has drawn up a report giving the details of this work, and I have included it for your consideration.

The number of nuisances reported has been great, and in many cases of a complex nature difficult to remove, and requiring great persistence to get them effectually remedied. This was particularly so with several farms and houses. In connection with this work I have made 183 visits and inspected 260 premises. In four cases of nuisance it was necessary to take legal proceedings, in each case with a successful result, as follows :—

PREMISES.	NUISANCE.	RESULT.
Brickkiln, off Broom Avenue...	Noxious Fumes ...	Order to abate.
Derby Street and Emley Street	Foul Privy Middens	Substitute W.C.'s.
Julius Street	Pigeons in Bedroom	Fine 10s. and costs.
Buckingham Road	Ashpit	Substitute proper Ashpit.

The chief features of interest which call for report are considered under their separate heads.

Water Supply.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and has been sufficient and satisfactory. Two farms were supplied from adjacent reservoirs; owing to an outbreak of disease three samples were taken and analysed and examined bacteriologically; they were found to be dangerously polluted. Manchester water has been substituted. Samples were also taken from two wells supplying a farm and several cottages. These, though not perfectly satisfactory, were not dangerously polluted; the wells were cleaned out and were more satisfactorily protected.

Streams.—The brook and dam in Chapel Street, which was so long a source of nuisance, has been covered in during the year. Complaints of the part remaining uncovered were received, and representations made to the Mercer Company, who were causing pollution of it.

The Levenshulme brook has also been partly culverted; it is stained with dyes, but is not offensive.

Privies, Ashpits, and Water Closets.—The number of nuisances reported from the first two has been greater than usual. They were found to be deep, many uncovered, close to the houses, containing foul, stagnant, and stinking water and refuse, constituting a nuisance decidedly prejudicial to health. In all such cases notice to convert to water closets was served: 97 were so converted, 6 were abolished, and 5 converted to pail-closets. One case was contested in court, with the result that the powers of the Council were judicially confirmed.

Sewerage.—There were as usual a number of complaints of foul smells from the sewers in the summer months, but owing to the regular and systematic flushing carried out these were not so numerous.

Leakage and smells from defective drains have caused a large amount of work, especially in the supervision required to secure a complete and permanent improvement.

Disposal of Refuse.—This continues to be deposited on tips, and some complaints were made of nuisance arising therefrom. This was not found to be of a serious nature, but measures were taken to minimise this, as it is not yet possible to do without them. The Destructor has now been erected, and will shortly be able to dispose of all the offensive refuse of the District.

Smoke Nuisance. This has not been very great; only a few observations were made, and only one notice was served. The emission of noxious effluvia from a brickkiln was complained of, and proceedings were taken in court with a successful result.

Factories and Workshops.—These were periodically inspected, and I personally visited all the new ones reported. There are nine factories; the sanitary conveniences are kept satisfactory. The workshops number 65, outworkers, 11.

There are 22 bakehouses, many of them small; they are kept clean and ventilated satisfactorily. One was closed. Three bakehouses are underground; owing to their structural conditions they are not satisfactory, and notices stating they will be closed have been served.

A specification of the structural conditions required in bakehouses has been drawn up and approved by the Council.

The nuisanees reported and notices served were as follows:—

	Insufficient Ventilation.		Dirty.		W.C. in Bakehouse.
Bakehouses	2	...	11	...	1
Workshops	2	...	4	...	—

Offensive Trades.—There are none in the District.

Sale of Food and Drugs.—No action was taken by the Council under the Act.

Mr. Superintendent Keys informs me that 21 samples have been taken by the Police in this District. The whole of the samples taken were found by the County Analyst to be “Genuine.”

The shops selling meat, fruits, and vegetables have been inspected at intervals. An inspection was made of the shops selling ice-cream, fried fish, tripe, and other cooked food; they were found to be, with slight exception, fairly satisfactory.

A case of food poisoning occurred in which 22 persons were seriously affected by the consumption of saveloys which had become contaminated or developed ptomaines. A careful inquiry was made, but no definite cause could be assigned. There were no deaths.

Slaughter-houses.—These, three in number, have been regularly inspected, and have been kept satisfactory. The Model Bye-laws of the Local Government Board concerning the structure and manage-

ment have been adopted and are now in force. Copies have been issued to all concerned. Copies of a circular concerning tuberculous meat were issued to all the butchers in the District.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—The cowsheds, eight in number, have been frequently inspected; they have been kept fairly clean. In three cases structural alterations were required. Copies of the new Regulations were issued and attention drawn to them, especially with regard to the air-space required and the cleanliness of the cattle and the milkers. There is still need for great improvement in the last respect, and constant supervision is required.

There are 32 milkshops and dairies, these have been kept in a satisfactory manner.

House Accommodation.—This is both good and plentiful, a large number of houses being erected each year, and our new Building Bye-Laws ensure proper sanitary construction. Three houses were closed by the owners owing to serious sanitary defects.

Overcrowding was reported in two cases; it was removed after notice was served.

I wish to put on record the fact that all the recommendations for improving the sanitary condition of the District I have laid before the Council have, without exception, been carefully considered and adopted, and that the Health Committee has most thoroughly supported me in carrying out the various duties of the Department.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. E. EDLIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

February 22nd, 1904.

LEVENSHULME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report on the sanitary work accomplished during the year ended 31st December 1903.

I have to report a considerable increase in the work done, both as regards nuisances abated and in the removal of domestic refuse.

Every complaint which has arisen has at once been visited, enquiries have been made, and steps taken to remedy or remove the cause of the complaint. In addition to these, a great variety of other nuisances have been found on inspection at houses where cases of infectious diseases had occurred or during the ordinary course of other inspections.

As far as possible I have attempted to persuade owners and occupiers to do the work suggested by me to remove the causes of complaint, and only when compelled have I reported the matter to you, gentlemen, for your support and assistance. For this purpose I have had 291 interviews with owners and occupiers, and only 78 legal notices were sent during the year.

Table comparing some of the branches of the work with the amount done last year:—

DETAILS.							1903	1902
Number of nuisances reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	303	213
„ notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	182
„ letters or preliminary notices written	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	15
„ nuisances abated without notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	212	16
„ complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	102	33
„ midden privies converted into water closets	..						97	2
„ houses disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...					36	31
„ ashpits emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,609	5,128
„ ashbins and pail closets emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	55,555	20,368
„ loads of refuse taken to the tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,372	3,555

You will see from the above table that though there is a decrease in the number of notices served, the number of nuisances abated is increased; also that there has been a considerable advance in the amount of domestic refuse removed.

The next table shows the details of nuisances abated. I would point out that the conversion of midden privies into water closets generally entailed the entire reconstruction of the drains, and that the careless manner in which drains were laid in the district previously affords a great deal of troublesome and annoying work. The owners confidently assert that the drains were laid, say five or six years ago, under the Council's supervision, and therefore must be right. When the true state of affairs is shown them by opening up and baring the drains they become righteously indignant. Again, there is a great deal of undetected tampering with drains in the District—in some cases by incompetent persons,—which is not supervised by the Council's officials, and in these cases I have yet no remedy. I would ask you to strengthen my hands in this matter.

Details of Nuisances Abated during 1903.

Midden Privies Converted to Water Closets	97
„ „ „ to Pail Closets	5
„ „ Abolished	6

Drains Relaid or Reconstructed.....	86
,, Blocked up	35
,, Ventilated.....	5
W.C.'s Blocked up	10
,, Repaired	4
,, with Defective Soilpipes	3
Waste Water Closet Converted to W.C.....	1
Lavatory Wastes Disconnected	6
Slopstone Pipes Repaired	26
Stagnant Water under Houses	11
Yard Surfaces and Channels Repaired.....	10
Dirty and Overcrowded Houses.....	6
Defective Ashbins Repaired	7
,, Manure-pits Repaired	6
,, Spouts Repaired	8
Accumulations of Manure and Pools of Water Removed.....	15
Bakehouses Linewashed.....	11
Workshops Linewashed	4
Bakehouses and Workshops Ventilated	4
General Repairs.....	9
Poultry, Pigeons, and Animals.....	6
Other Nuisances under Public Health Acts	7
Drainage, Ventilation, Manure-pits, etc., of two Farms Reconstructed	2
Houses Closed	3

Summary of Visits Paid, Etc.

No. of Visits to Work in progress Abating Nuisances	295
,, ,, Bakehouses.....	42
,, ,, Workshops.....	89
,, ,, Complaints.....	214
,, ,, Slaughterhouses, Meatshops	Regular
,, ,, Farms, Dairies, Milkshops	64
,, ,, Vans and Shows	2
,, Other Premises Inspected.....	1002
,, Owners Interviewed respecting Nuisances	129
,, Occupiers ,, ,,	162
,, Drains Tested	151
,, Chimneys on Fire	18

Visits to Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Chicken-pox	18
Scarlet Fever.....	40
Enteric Fever	21
Smallpox.....	23
Erysipelas	5
Diphtheria	4
Puerperal Fever	1
Searching for Fever and other Infectious Disease	10
Food (Ptomaine) Poisoning.....	9
Phthisis	10
Total	<u>141</u>

Hackney Coach Department.

Hackney Coach Licenses.....	8
Tramcar Licenses	43
Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences.....	19
Tramcar Drivers' Licenses	75
Conductor's Licenses	74
Game Licenses	4

Immediately on the receipt of a notification of the existence of any infectious disease a visit is paid to the house, the source of infection is traced, and it is ascertained whether removal to hospital is necessary, and if so, no time is lost in getting the case away. The whole of the premises are inspected to ascertain sanitary defects, and then the whole of the evidence obtained is placed before your Medical Officer of Health, who gives instructions what further steps are necessary. The ambulance purchased for the district is a well-designed vehicle, its immediate availability is of great assistance in checking the spread of infection, and its value cannot be over-estimated. A properly constructed van is now necessary for the removal of infected articles of bedding and clothing for the purposes of disinfection by steam under pressure, and the want of a disinfecting machine for these articles has been greatly felt during the past year. Only when application has been made have articles of this description been subjected to the

more reliable form of disinfection by steam. On these occasions the difficulties of carriage and transmission have been great, as also the cost of labour, horse hire, etc.

CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

MONTH.	Ashbins and Pail Closets Emptied.	Dry Ashpits Emptied.	Midden Privies Emptied.	Loads of Refuse taken to Tip.
1903.				
January	1,629	85	163	298
February	2,329	202	31	237
March	3,700	275	314	404
April	3,948	372	215	352
May	4,356	283	188	303
June	4,704	225	146	312
July	6,248	415	308	565
August	5,209	395	162	355
September	5,374	362	146	387
October	6,732	384	201	403
November	5,601	195	102	379
December	5,725	259	151	377
Whole Year	55,555	3,452	2,157	4,372

No of Ashbins in District.....	1414
Pail Closets „	27
Dry Ashplaces „	714
Midden Privies „	485

In accordance with your instructions I have arranged for the systematic collection of domestic refuse. The distance of the tip provided from the centre of the District has been a greatly retarding factor. Previous to 1903, no system at all appears to have been used for this work, and no regular staff kept on duty.

The work continues to increase rapidly, as is shown by the fact that the number of ashbins at the end of February was 980 and at the end of December 1414, being an increase of 434.

It is expected that the provision of a Destructor, which is in course of erection, will in a few months minimise a great many of the difficulties.

The sewers and manholes have been periodically flushed during the past year, and a reduction effected in the number of complaints. A number of blockages have occurred in manholes containing an intercepting trap, apparently caused by children lifting up the square covers, which are provided with a handle and which were not locked, and throwing in sticks, which rapidly cause accumulations. I would suggest that circular bevel-edged covers be adopted as far as practicable in the future, as all locking arrangements are liable to become rusted and useless.

In conclusion, I beg to tender my thanks to you, gentlemen, for your kindness and courtesy towards me, and to the officials for their valuable assistance.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. ERNEST LORD,

Inspector of Nuisances.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

LEVENSHULME,

26th February 1904.

